

Benjamin H. Latrobe, Surveyor of the Public Buildings to Thomas Jefferson, March 29, 1804, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Latrobe to Jefferson

Newcastle, March 29, 1804.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON.

Dear Sir: I herewith transmit to you a separate roll containing drawings, being the plans and sections of the south wing of the Capitol according to the ideas which I explained to you when I had the favor of seeing you last. I fear, however, that these and any other preparations for proceeding with the public works may be useless, for by a letter from Mr. Lenthall I learn that the appropriation bill has passed the Senate with an amendment enjoining the removal of Congress to the President's house. This amendment must either be fatal to the bill when returned to the House of Representatives or divert the expenditure of the appropriation from the Capitol to I know not what sort of an arrange-

ment for Congress and for the President, if it should pass into a law.

However, as it is impossible to think or speak with legal respect of the years in such a measure, or to suppose that such a law should pass both houses, I will take the liberty to explain the drawings as concisely as I can.

[B. H. Latrobe.]

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